

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for careful consideration this application. Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-11, 14-18, 21-31, 34-38 and 41-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 21, and 41 are independent claims. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from one of claims 1, 21, or 41.

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 16, 17, 18, 21, 36, 37 and 38 have been amended. Claims 19, 20, 39, 40 have been cancelled by this reply. Claims 41 and 42 are newly added claims. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

III. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-11, 14-31 and 34-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,453,605 issued to Short, Jr. ("Short") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,052,531 issued to Steine et al. ("Steine"). Independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended. To the extent that the rejection may be applied to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 21 as amended recite a "brazing alloy comprising

silver in an amount of at least 40% by weight, copper in an amount of at least about 10% by weight, at least one selected from the group of zinc and tin, and about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of thallium (Tl) or thallium (Tl) and at least one selected from the group of gallium (Ga) and indium (In).” Neither Short nor Steine discloses or suggests a braze alloy as recited in claims 1 and 21. Accordingly, claims 1 and 21 are patentable over the combination of Short in view of Steine. Claims 2-11, 14-18, 22-31, and 34-38, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 or claim 21, are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

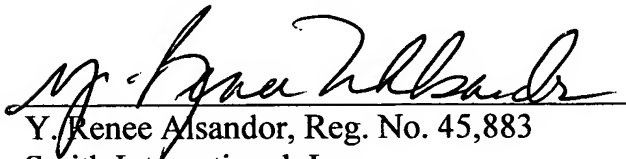
IV. Newly Added Claims

Claims 41 and 42 are newly added claims. Independent claim 41 recites a “braze alloy comprising silver in an amount of at least 40% by weight, copper in an amount of at least about 10% by weight, zinc in an amount of at least about 6% by weight and tin in an amount of at least about 5% by weight, and between about 2% to about 10% by weight of indium (in) or indium (In) and at least one selected from the group of thallium (Tl) and gallium (Ga).” Neither Short nor Steine discloses or suggests a braze alloy as recited in claim 41. Accordingly, claim 41 is patentable over the combination of Short in view of Steine. Claim 42, which depends directly from claim 41, is likewise patentable over the art cited for at least the same reasons.

V. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or her associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 192745 (Reference Number 03-GD93).

Respectfully submitted,



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